MARVEL 4

SPIDER-GEDDON
AFTERMATH

McGUIRE • KÄMPE • HERRING

SPIDER-GWEN: GHOST-SPIDER

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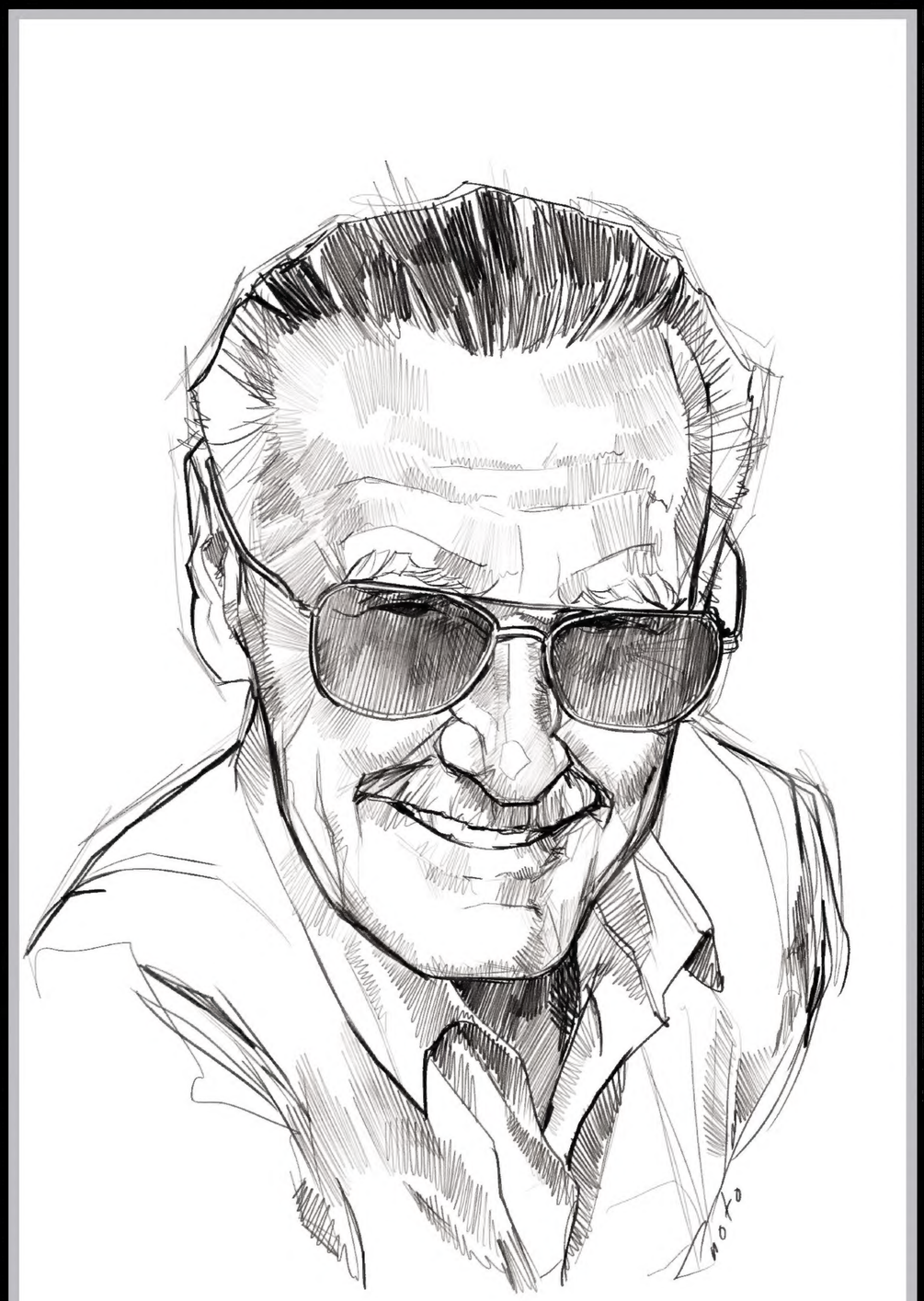

STAN LEE
1922-2018

SPIDER-GEDDON
AFTERMATH

AS A TEENAGER, GWEN STACY WAS BITTEN BY A MUTATED SPIDER AND TRANSFORMED! THE BITE GRANTED HER AMAZING POWERS: A PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES AND THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER.

SHE'S HAD RUN-INS WITH SUPERSPYS, NINJAS AND MAD SCIENTISTS. SHE'S FOUGHT GOVERNMENT AGENTS, TRAVERSED DIMENSIONS AND EVEN SERVED SOME TIME BEHIND BARS.

(IT'S BEEN A **COMPLICATED** COUPLE YEARS.)

BUT NO MATTER THE UPS OR DOWNS, WHENEVER DANGER CALLS, GWEN STACY ANSWERS AS

SPIDER-GWEN

SPIDER-GWEN: GHOST-SPIDER

RECENTLY, HEROIC SPIDER-MEN AND –WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE WERE DRAFTED INTO A FINAL CONFLICT WITH THE VAMPIRIC INHERITORS.

THROUGH THEIR COMBINED MIGHT, THE HEROES AVERTED SPIDER-GEDDON, BUT THE COST OF VICTORY WAS HIGH.

THE WEB OF LIFE AND DESTINY LAY IN TATTERS, THE TELEPORTATION WATCHES ONCE IN POSSESSION OF THE WEB-WARRIORS HAVE ALL BEEN DESTROYED, AND MORE THAN ONE SPIDER FELL IN THE CONFLICT...

NOW, AFTER HER OWN ADVENTURE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, GWEN STACY OF EARTH-65 IS THE ONLY SPIDER ABLE TO TRAVEL FROM WORLD TO WORLD.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY...

SPIDER-GEDDON PART 4:
LIKE STARS FROM THE SKY

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GWEN STACY CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

Bum **BUM** ba-da-da-**DUM**
Bum **BUM** ba-da-da-**DUM**
Bum **BUM** ba-da-da-**DUM**

Bum **BAM** bum **BAM BAM** ba-da-da-**DUM BAM BAM BAM**
BAM BAM bum **BAM** bum **BAM BAM** ba-da-da-**DUM BAM BAM BAM**

WHA-BAM bum
BAM bum **BAM**
BAM ba-da-da-**DU**
BAM BAM BA
WHA-BAM WHA
WHAM-WHAM b
BAM bum **BAM**
BAM ba-da-da-**D**

I DON'T REMEMBER MY MOTHER.

I KNOW HER NAME WAS HELEN. I KNOW MY FATHER LOVED HER. I KNOW SHE DIED.

I ATTENDED MY FIRST *FUNERAL* BEFORE I KNEW MY OWN *NAME*.

SOME KIDS GET TO GROW UP THINKING DEATH HAPPENS TO OTHER PEOPLE.

NOT ME. IF THERE'S ONE CONSTANT IN THE MULTIVERSE, IT'S THAT *DEATH* LOVES *GWEN STACY*.

DEATH LOVES ME TOO MUCH TO EVER LEAVE ME ALONE.

...BILLY?

SNAP

BROKEN.

EVERYTHING'S *BROKEN.*

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

WE'RE *HEROES.* WE'RE *FIGHTERS.*

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *WIN.*

WE PAY, YES, ABSOLUTELY.

EVERYTHING COSTS. EVERYTHING HAS TO COST.

BUT THIS COST TOO MUCH. EVERYTHING'S BROKEN.

GWEN?

...WHAT.

IT'S TIME, GWEN. ARE YOU READY?

YOU'RE NOT REALLY HERE, BILLY.

I KNOW.

SO WHY...?

YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THREE DAYS. I ALWAYS TOLD YOU, THE FIRST PERSON A HERO HAS TO SAVE IS ***THEMSELF,*** GWEN. I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.

RIGHT. BECAUSE THE APPROVAL OF A DEAD MAN, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR.

YOU'RE DEAD, BILLY. GO BE DEAD. I DON'T NEED A HAUNTING TODAY.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I WASN'T REALLY HERE. I'M NOT A GHOST, GWEN.

I KNOW.

A GHOST WOULD BE WAY TOO EASY. AND SORT OF AWESOME.

A GHOST MEANS NEVER SAYING GOODBYE. I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOU, BILLY.

I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO ANY OF YOU.

BUT YOU'LL MISS ME MOST OF ALL, WON'T YOU?

YOU BRITS. YOU ALWAYS THINK SO HIGHLY OF YOURSELVES.

AM I WRONG?

NO.

I JUST WISH YOU WERE.

EVERYTHING'S BROKEN AND EVERYTHING'S *HAUNTED.*

MAYBE ME MOST OF ALL.

LOOMWORLD.

WE WERE SO *HOPEFUL* WHEN WE CAME HERE.

WE WERE GOING TO PROTECT THE *MULTIVERSE.*

WE WERE SO *INNOCENT.*

WE WERE SO *STUPID.*

AND WE PAID. OH, HOW WE *PAID.*

THE FIRST TIME I MET KARN, HE WAS TRYING TO KILL US.

NEXT THING WE KNEW, HE WAS TRYING TO ***SAVE*** US.

THINGS HAPPEN ***FAST*** IS WHAT I'M SAYING.

HE WAS A WEIRD VAMPIRE ALIEN DUDE, AND HE WAS SORT OF TERRIFYING, BUT...

HE WAS ***OURS.*** HE LOOKED OUT FOR US, AND WE LOOKED OUT FOR HIM.

ONLY IN THE END, HE DIED ALONE.

HE DIED BECAUSE HIS FAMILY WAS ***EVIL,*** AND HE REFUSED TO BE.

MAY WE ALL BE HEROES LIKE KARN WAS.

TO KARN.

TO KARN.

YOU WERE ALWAYS KIND TO ME.

WEIRD ALIEN VAMPIRE DUDE. YEAH.

I HOPE YOU FIND PEACE, MY FRIEND. I HOPE YOU REST.

I WISH YOU WERE REALLY HERE.

YOU WEREN'T BAD FOR SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO KILL US ONCE.

I WISH BILLY WERE HERE. AND P-PETER.

HE USED TO CALL ME "DOLL" SOMETIMES. I HATED IT.

I MISS YOU ALL SO MUCH.

NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF YOU THAT WE CAN BE TOGETHER ONE LAST TIME.

WE ONLY HAVE A LITTLE TIME. PLEASE. COME BE WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

THIS IS HOW IT ENDS.

THIS IS HOW IT *ALWAYS* ENDS.

YOUR FRIENDS SAY GOODBYE, BUT YOU'RE ALREADY GONE.

YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY YOU CAN'T HEAR THEM.

CLK

THEY'RE JUST STANDING IN THE PLACE YOU USED TO LIVE.

WOOSH

YOU'RE GONE.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN VISITING A HAUNTED HOUSE.

HEY.

THE FIRE'S ALMOST OUT. YOU READY TO HEAD HOME?

NO. BUT *YES.*

I WANT TO SIT AND WATCH BENJY SLEEP. IS THAT WEIRD?

NO. I THINK IT'S PRETTY GREAT.

HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU GOING TO GET A BREAK?

I...

I HAVE SOME THINGS TO DO.

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

WE'RE ALL EXHAUSTED.

I'M FINE.

I HAD A ***BREAK*** WHILE THE REST OF YOU WERE ***FIGHTING.***

LET'S GET YOU HOME.

THE WEB OF LIFE AND DESTINY IS *GONE.*

ANNIE MAY-- *SPIDERLING*-- IS THE PATTERNMAKER NOW, WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS.

MAYBE IT MEANS WE'LL HAVE A NEW WEB SOMEDAY.

FOR NOW, THOUGH, WE'RE *CUT OFF.*

MOST SPECIES OF SPIDER ARE *SOLITARY,* BUT THIS...THIS FEELS WRONG.

IT'S LIKE LOSING A *FAMILY.*

YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

I'M *GWEN STACY,* REMEMBER? I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING.

SURE. JUST... WHEN YOU'RE PICKING YOUR BATTLES, REMEMBER YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT THEM ALL ALONE.

BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

I ACTUALLY DO.

EARTH-90214. HOME OF SPIDER-MAN: NOIR.

I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE.

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.

IT'S NOT FAIR THAT THIS SHOULD FALL TO ME. IT'S NOT FAIR. BUT IT'S...

SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT.

SOMEONE HAS TO TELL THEM HE'S NOT COMING HOME.

HERE'S THE THING, THOUGH:

YOU MAY BE GONE, BUT THE PEOPLE WHO *LOVE* YOU AREN'T.

THEY'RE WAITING.

I WON'T LET THEM WAIT FOREVER.

HELLO, YOUNG LADY. HAVE YOU COME FOR A MEAL?

MAY PARKER?

...YES?

IS THERE SOMEPLACE WE CAN TALK?

SO I TELL THEM.

I TELL THEM HE WAS A GOOD MAN. A FRIEND. A *HERO*.

IT'S ALL I HAVE. IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

I CAN BRING...I CAN BRING HIS BODY *HOME*. IF YOU WANT.

YOU COME HERE AND YOU TELL ME MY NEPHEW WAS...WAS THE *SPIDER-MAN*.

YOU TELL ME HE WAS A *SOLDIER*. THAT HE DIED IN A *WAR*.

YOU TELL ME HE WAS A VIGILANTE, A *BROKEN* MAN.

YOU CALL *THAT* A HERO?

SLAP

GET OUT.

BUT--

LEAVE. LEAVE, AND NEVER COME BACK.

I'M SORRY.

STUPID. STUPID. STUPID.

WAIT!

PLEASE, PLEASE WAIT!

ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME TOO?

NO! I ALWAYS...I ALWAYS SUSPECTED.

PETER WAS VERY SPECIAL.

NOT ONLY TO ME. THERE'S SOMEONE...

SOMEONE ELSE YOU HAVE TO TELL."

I'M SO SORRY.

SORRY? YOU'RE SORRY?

DON'T BE SORRY.

YOU BROUGHT HIS STORY BACK TO ME.

I WOULD HAVE WONDERED... FOREVER.

MY STUPID, BRILLIANT, WONDERFUL BOY.

THIS IS WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS.

BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO.

SOMEONE HAS TO CLOSE THE DOORS ON THE HAUNTED HOUSES.

EARTH-803. HOME OF THE LADY SPIDER.

SOMEONE HAS TO LET THE GHOSTS GO.

KNOCK KNOCK

GWEN! WHAT A DELIGHTFUL--

WAIT. WHERE ARE THE *OTHERS?*

WHY ARE YOU HERE? HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

GIVE ME A MOMENT. I'LL RETRIEVE MY ARMS, AND--

SOMEONE HAS TO LET THEM REST.

MARY. IT'S ALREADY OVER.

OH, *BILLY.*

OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL FOOL.

"WHEN I FIRST MET BILLY BRADDOCK, I THOUGHT HE WAS A BIT OF A SWOT."

ALWAYS HAD TO BE THE BEST. ALWAYS HAD TO PROVE HIMSELF.

WELL, HE HAD HIS REASONS, DIDN'T HE?

HE WASN'T MY FAMILY, BUT HE WAS MY **BROTHER.**

I'M GLAD TO KNOW HE'LL REST HERE, ALONGSIDE MY PARENTS.

IF HE CAN'T GO HOME TO **HIS** ENGLAND, HE CAN LIE EASY IN **MINE.**

ILLIAM RADDOCK

SLEEP WELL, BILLY. REMEMBER THAT WE **LOVED** YOU.

WILLIAM BRADDOCK

REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL BE **MISSED.**

AFTERWARD...

--TRIED TO FIGHT THEM ALL BY *HIMSELF*--

--SAID *CALCULUS* WASN'T HARD--

--AND IT WASN'T HIS SANDWICH ANYWAY.

BRAD

YOU WERE... YOU WERE THE *BEST* OF US.

HOW CAN YOU JUST *DIE?*

IT'S NOT *FAIR* IT'S NOT *FAIR* IT'S NOT--

GWEN.

HEY. IT'S OKAY. I'VE GOT YOU.

I'VE GOT YOU.

THIS SHOULD BE EMBARRASSING. IT'S NOT.

WE HAVE TO COMFORT EACH OTHER.

IT'S WHAT KEEPS OUR *GHOST STORY* FROM BECOMING A TRAGEDY.

THIS WAS A GOOD THING YOU DID.

YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

I DO. I MEAN...

I MET SOME PEOPLE. OTHER VERSIONS OF US.

THAT HAPPENS.

JUST LISTEN.

THEY'D LOST THEIR GWEN. SHE WASN'T *DEAD*, JUST... *MISSING*.

AND THEY WERE *LOST* WITHOUT HER.

I CAN'T RISK DOING THAT TO THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

YOU MEAN YOU'RE STAYING HOME FOR A WHILE.

YEAH.

THE REST OF YOU *HAVE* TO, BUT I...

I COULD GO ANYWHERE. I COULD GO EVERYWHERE.

AND WHEN I *DIED*, MY FRIENDS WOULD NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

MY *FATHER* WOULD NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

SO I'M STAYING HOME. IS...

...IS THAT SELFISH OF ME?

YEAH. I MEAN, OF COURSE IT'S SELFISH.
...OH.
BUT WHY DO WE ACT LIKE SELFISH IS ALWAYS WRONG?
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS GOING TO NEED SAVING. SOMEONE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE CALLING FOR HELP.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T GET TO PICK OUR BATTLES. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO REST.
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I THINK WE'VE EARNED IT.
BUT NOT FOREVER.
NO. NOT FOREVER.
THAT WOULD GET BORING.
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TV ONE PERSON CAN WATCH.
REMEMBER WHEN WE SAID WE'D WATCH OVER EACH OTHER?
I DO.
I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT MY BACK.
ALWAYS. NOW LET'S GET BACK TO THE PARTY.
BILLY WOULD WANT US TO RAISE A GLASS FOR HIM TONIGHT. AFTER ALL--
"--WE MAY NOT SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE."

EARTH-65.
HOME OF GWEN STACY,
SPIDER-WOMAN.

THWP

IF WE HAVE TO BE *HAUNTED*, WE SHOULD BEFRIEND OUR *GHOSTS*.

WE SHOULD *WELCOME* THEM IN, AND LET THEM MAKE A HOME WITH US.

LEGENDS NEVER DIE.

WOO-HOO!

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE *GHOST STORIES*, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE OVER.

END.

NEXT:

SPIDER-GWEN: GHOST SPIDER #5

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STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hang loose, heroes! Now that I've got your ear, I'm not lettin' go! Our first tintinnabulating topic is gonna be: "The Marvel Philosophy." Whenever I get together with any of you frantic ones, the first question posed is usually "What are you fellas really trying to DO in your mags? What message are you pushin'? Is the whole Marvel series just a big put-on, or are you trying to TELL us something? Are you actually serious about your characters—do you really believe in 'em—? Etc." Well, just between us, we believe in our cavortin' characters a lot more than we believe in some people we know, and we do have a motive—a purpose—behind our mags! That purpose is, plain and simple — to entertain you! We think we've found the best formula of all—we merely create the type of fanciful yarns that we ourselves enjoy—and, if we like 'em, you oughtta like 'em, too; after all, you're our kinda people! Now then, in the process of providing off-beat entertainment, if we can also do our bit to advance the cause of intellectualism, humanitarianism, and mutual understanding...and to toss a little swingin' satire at you in the process . . . that won't break our collective heart one tiny bit! That's it, pussycat! Thanks for listenin'!

ZONE